

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

2008 Bird Strike Committee USA/Canada, 10th  
Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida

Bird Strike Committee Proceedings

---

8-2008

## Parameters Affecting Bird Use of Stormwater Detention Ponds in the Southeastern United States: Implications for Bird-Aircraft Collisions

Brian J. Fox  
*Auburn University, AL*

James B. Armstrong  
*Auburn University, AL*

Bradley F. Blackwell  
*USDA Wildlife Services, [bradley.f.blackwell@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:bradley.f.blackwell@aphis.usda.gov)*

James B. Grand  
*Auburn University, AL*

Wesley B. Holland  
*USDA Wildlife Services*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/birdstrike2008>

 Part of the [Environmental Health and Protection Commons](#)

---

Fox, Brian J.; Armstrong, James B.; Blackwell, Bradley F.; Grand, James B.; and Holland, Wesley B., "Parameters Affecting Bird Use of Stormwater Detention Ponds in the Southeastern United States: Implications for Bird-Aircraft Collisions" (2008). *2008 Bird Strike Committee USA/Canada, 10th Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida*. 1.  
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/birdstrike2008/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Bird Strike Committee Proceedings at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2008 Bird Strike Committee USA/Canada, 10th Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

# Parameters Affecting Bird Use of Stormwater Detention Ponds in the Southeastern United States: Implications for Bird-Aircraft Collisions

**Brian J. Fox and James B. Armstrong**

Auburn University, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, 3301  
Forestry & Wildlife Sciences Building, Auburn University, AL 36849 USA

**Bradley F. Blackwell**

USDA Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center, 6100  
Columbus Ave., Sandusky, OH 44870 USA

**James B. Grand**

Alabama Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit, 3301 Forestry &  
Wildlife Sciences Bldg., Auburn University, AL 36849 USA

**Wesley B. Holland**

USDA Wildlife Services, 3301 Forestry & Wildlife Sciences Bldg., Auburn  
University, AL 36849 USA

Stormwater impoundments within Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) sighting criteria (10,000 foot line of sight around airport perimeter) increase the risk of bird-aircraft collisions by providing bird habitat, but the factors which influence this risk have only recently been investigated. Managers must find ways to reduce this risk, while still managing stormwater for environmental quality compliance. The FAA provides guidelines for stormwater management to reduce hazardous wildlife attraction (AC150/5200-33B). However, these guidelines do not quantify the role of pond and landscape characteristics in attracting birds to stormwater ponds. In a collaborative effort with the FAA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Wildlife Services, we are quantifying bird use of stormwater detention ponds. For this project we are conducting point counts at 40 stormwater ponds in the Auburn, AL area on a rotating basis. We are quantifying pond and landscape characteristics with a combination of observer data and geographic information systems. The data

*Abstract of paper presented at Bird Strike Committee USA/Canada Meeting, Lake Mary and Sanford, Florida, August 18-21, 2008.*

generated will provide a basis for understanding factors influencing bird-aircraft collision risks created by the presence of stormwater ponds. We will present our development of *a priori* models to describe bird use of stormwater ponds and discuss the project's objectives, including the development of improved Best Management Practices for hazardous birds at stormwater ponds. We will also summarize the project's preliminary data and analyses to date.